

# On the Grand

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**On the Grand** is a quarterly publication distributed by the Grand River Conservation Authority to member municipalities and watershed residents. It contains short news items about Conservation Authority programs and projects in the Grand River valley.

## UNVEILING A CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVER



**Unveiling a Canadian Heritage River** - On September 26th, Parliamentary Secretary to the Federal Minister of Canadian Heritage Albina Guarnieri and Minister of Natural Resources Howard Hampton unveil the plaque honouring the Grand the latest river to join the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.

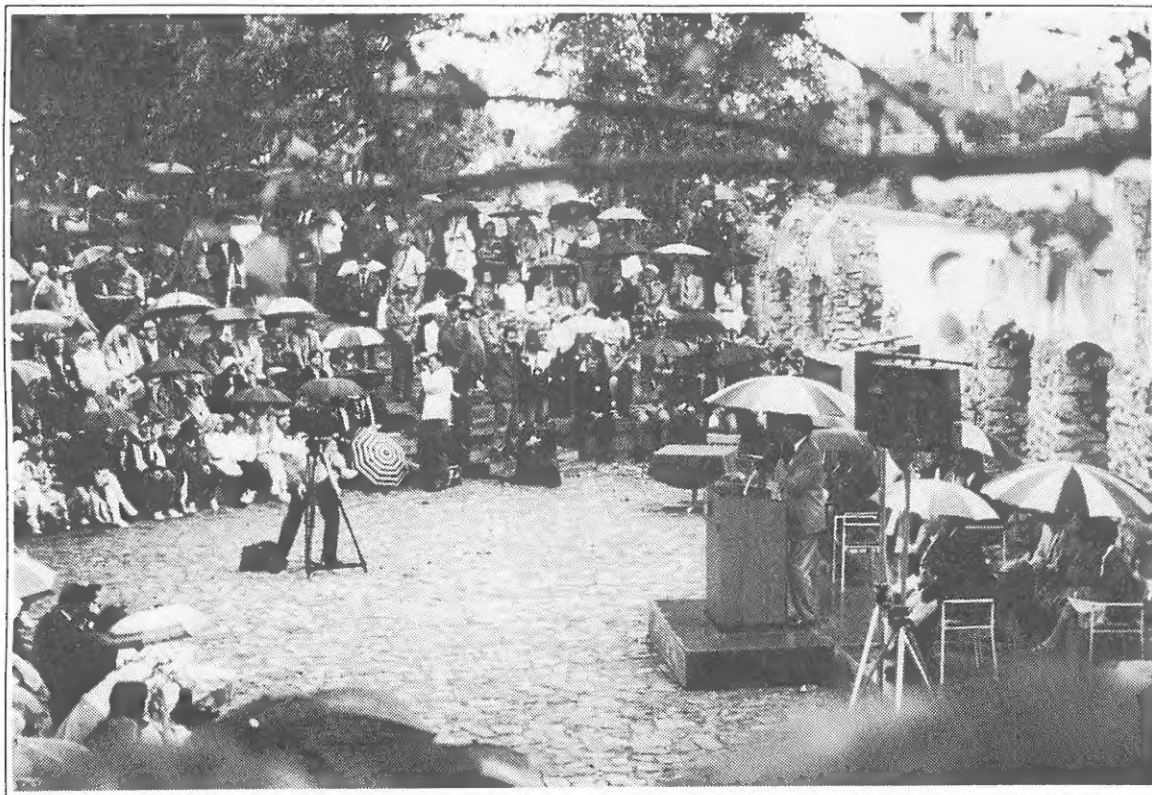
The plaque commemorating Canada's newest Heritage River was unveiled in Cambridge on September 26. The ceremony began with a noon hour concert by Tamarack performing songs about the heritage of the Grand River valley. A procession of flags from municipalities across the watershed lent colour to the celebrations. GRCA Chairman Archie MacRobbie, City of Cambridge Mayor Jane Brewer, and immediate past President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Mabel Dougherty welcomed guests to the amphitheatre at the Mill Race Park.

Albina Guarnieri and the Honourable Howard Hampton commented on the significance of our new Canadian Heritage River. Following a joint

signing of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System Registry and unveiling of the plaque, the text of the plaque was read in English by Peter Gzowski, in French by Hajra Wilson, and in Mohawk by Jacob Thomas and Janice Longboat.

"This historic event affirms our willingness to work together to create a better future for the Grand River watershed," commented GRCA Chief Administrative Officer Allan R. Holmes

The Grand joins an elite company of 16 other Canadian Heritage Rivers. It received its designation based on its human heritage and recreational features, two features which continue to grow in significance as time goes on.



**Speaking in the Rain** - Norm Richards, immediate Past President of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board welcomes over 700 umbrella covered visitors to the Plaque Dedication Ceremony





**Honouring the River** - Minister of Natural Resources, the Honourable Howard Hampton describes the provincial significance of having the Grand River designated as a Canadian Heritage River. Other platform guests included CBC Morningside host Peter Gzowski, GRCA Chairman Archie MacRobbie, Mayor of the City of Cambridge Jane Brewer, Immediate Past President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Mabel Dougherty, and the MPP for Cambridge, the Honourable Mike Farnan.



**Signing the Registry** - Witnessed by representatives from communities across the watershed, Albina Guarnieri and Howard Hampton sign the Canadian Heritage Rivers System Registry.



## Canadian Heritage Rivers System

**Fond Memories** - Peter Gzowski spoke warmly of his childhood memories of growing up in Galt along the Grand River. Here he points to the location of his childhood home overlooking the river.

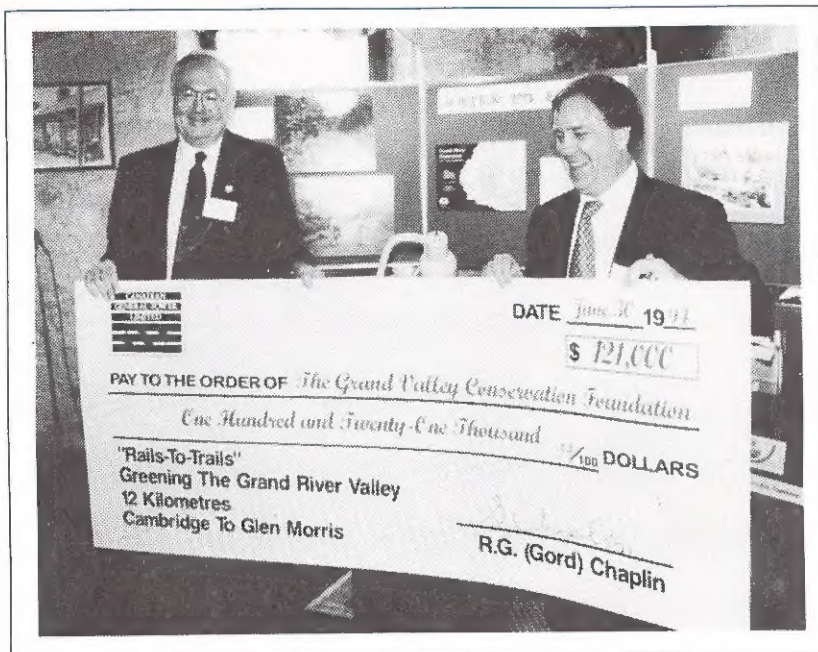


**'O:se Kenhionhata:tie** - Jacob Thomas a Cayuga Chief of the Six Nations reads the Mohawk text of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System Plaque. The Mohawk text was then read in English by Janice Longboat who is standing to the right of Mr. Thomas.



# Canadian General-Tower Donation

In June Vice President of Corporate Affairs for Canadian General-Tower Gord Chaplin (right) presented a generous donation of \$121,000 to John Harris of the Grand Valley Conservation Foundation to complete the development of the Cambridge to Paris Rail-Trail. Mr. Chaplin said, "As members of this community for more than 100 years, we have always known that we have a responsibility to give something back to the city."



It may be news to the hundreds of walkers, runners, cyclists and hikers who were already using it, but the Cambridge to Paris Rail-Trail was officially opened on Sunday, July 24. The opening of the trail was held in conjunction with a Canadian Arthritis Society Walkathon. The opening and Walkathon were heavily attended, and the Arthritis Society raised \$10,000 at the event. People attending the opening and Walkathon walked, cycled and travelled by wheelchair on the trail. Future watershed residents will thank the vision of the people who purchased the trail and supported its development.



## More Visitors to the Conservation Areas

Good summer weather, more local vacations and friendly service. These were some of the reasons GRCA Conservation Areas had another year of record revenue. The free family oriented Visitor Services Programs remained popular, and the Tamarack *On the Grand* tour of the Conservation Areas was another successful innovation. For the first time, the Authority purchased advertising on radio stations in Brantford, Cambridge, Guelph, Kitchener-Waterloo and Hamilton, and the spots were well received. In addition, a new committee was established to market the Conservation Areas. Its first project was to develop and circulate a survey in the parks. Visitors returned approximately 1,500 surveys and staff are collating and analysing the results in order to recommend improvements for visitors to our parks.

## What About Kiwanis?

Inquiring minds want to know, "What about Kiwanis?" There are two main problems facing the GRCA in terms of continuing to operate this area. One is that Kiwanis Conservation Area has been losing money for years. The other is that the cost to rebuild the pool is exorbitant relative to projected future revenues. In order to consider options for the area, the GRCA has struck a committee with representatives from the private sector, GRCA, neighbourhood groups, Twin Cities Kiwanis Club, and municipalities such as the City of Kitchener and the Regional Municipality of Waterloo. Ted Fairless is chairman of the committee. Mr. Fairless serves on the GRCA Executive Committee and is also chairman of the GRCA Conservation Areas Advisory Board. The committee also held two public meetings this summer to discuss public concerns about Kiwanis. As a result of this activity, the committee is expected to provide recommendations this fall for the future of Kiwanis.

## Elora to Cataract Rail-Trail

Now that the GRCA and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority have purchased the Elora to Cataract rail corridor, they are considering plans to develop and manage this new trail. Public input is important to ensure that trail development and use takes local concerns into account. With this in mind the Authorities and the Wellington Rails-to-Trails group held public meetings about the future of the trail in Elora, Orton and Erin during the last week of August. Heavy turnout at the meetings indicated that public interest in the future of the trail was high. The response from local residents and landowners abutting the corridor was very positive. Residents who spoke at the meeting had many suggestions and showed a willingness to work with the Authority to establish a trail that works for everyone. GRCA staff are currently evaluating the responses from the meeting in order to develop a long term plan for accomodating as many user groups as possible in a safe, enjoyable and environmentally sound way.

## More News From Dunnville

There's been a lot of water under the bridge in Dunnville since the reconstruction of Weirs # 2, 3 and 4 began, but they are finally completed. The fish ladder at Weir # 3 required modifications by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans before it was completed late in September. The Conservation Authority is now planning to restore the Dunnville Dam. The GRCA has approval and agreement to proceed from the Six Nations and all commenting agencies with the exception of the Canadian Coast Guard. The Authority is currently proceeding with the publication of public notices and will call for tenders late in 1994.





## New GRCA Director

Keith Murch (right) of Cambridge has been appointed the GRCA's new Director of Finance, Administration and Secretary-Treasurer. He takes over from Ron Fox (left) who retires as Director after almost 32 years with the GRCA. Mr. Murch graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University with an Honours Bachelor of Business Administration in 1977. He has held various Finance positions in industry and became a Certified Management Accountant in 1985. He was also a Controller for Gould Pumps, Inc. (a Fortune 500 company in Seneca Falls, New York) where he was responsible for Finance and Administration in the Canadian subsidiary and four other international manufacturing operations around the world. During this time he worked out of the Canadian head office in Cambridge. He has also had extensive experience with management information systems and human resources.

Keith grew up in Preston near the confluence of the Grand and Speed Rivers. He currently lives along the Grand River in Cambridge with his wife, Catherine, and their children, Paul and Lauren. The family spends much of its spare time biking and walking trails along the river, as well as canoeing and fishing the Grand and other rivers in the watershed.

## Membership Reorganization

Action to reorganize the GRCA General Membership continues. Total membership is slated to be reduced from the current 41 members to 29 in January 1995. The reduction plan involved extensive consultation with the Authority's municipal partners. The reduction is part of the GRCA's attempts to streamline operations and improve the organization's effectiveness. The Executive Committee which has guided the Conservation Authority for over 25 years will no longer exist in its present form.

The full membership will now meet once a month, and each member will sit on either the Administration, Finance and Personnel Committee or the new Planning and Operations Committee. Because each member may attend two meetings a month, members should be in closer contact with the Authority and its programs. At the General Meeting of September 14, the Membership approved the implementation of the reorganization plan.

Michael C. Smith of Brantford is the new Provincial Appointee to the GRCA. His term expires at the Annual Meeting in 1997. Mr. Smith is a financial planner and is also involved with a number of community organizations. He is interested in conservation, developing tourism and sustainable development.

## New Partnerships in Planning

One stop shopping in the plan review process. These words summarize the results of GRCA discussions with other agencies in the Grand River watershed. The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has delegated its review of stormwater management plans to the GRCA in the City of Kitchener where there are subwatershed plans in place. The GRCA is also discussing taking on the Ministry of Environment and Energy's (MOEE) review of stormwater management proposals.

The MNR will also be delegating the review of permit applications under the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act to the GRCA. This delegation will cover minor works, but not include major re-channelization projects or dams. The MNR will also turn over its review of all severances, zone changes and minor variances in the Region of Waterloo to the GRCA. It is hoped that the streamlining effect of this type of delegation will soon be in place across the entire Grand River watershed. These changes mean that watershed residents involved in the planning process will only have to have their plans in the above areas reviewed by the GRCA instead of by two or more agencies.

## The Man Who Came to Dinner



Grand Valley Conservation Foundation President Norm Lundvall (left) presents a Peter Etril Snyder rail corridor print to Dom Cardillo at the Tribute Night at Bingeman Park on June 16. Over 500 guests from all walks of life came to dinner to say goodbye to the Mayor. Proceeds from ticket sales went to support the Foundation's Rails to Trails projects and the Kitchener Rotary Children's Centre.

## Communications Update

GRCA staff worked with CKCO-TV on the production of an hour long program about the Grand River called *"The Grand Adventure."* The show was first broadcast in the spring and can be borrowed or purchased from the Communications Section. Staff are currently working with CKCO-TV on a television public service announcement featuring the work of the Grand Valley Conservation Foundation.

At the Nature Centres, the Conservation for Communities free programs on Sundays have been renamed *"Sunday at the Centres"* and continue to attract a wide range of visitors.

## IN MEMORIAM

Many Conservation Authority staff members recall **Russell Faulkner**, the former Superintendent of Belwood Lake Conservation Area and **Russell Jelly**, the former Assistant Superintendent at the Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area. Mr. Faulkner passed away on September 6. Mr. Jelly died on September 11. Russ Faulkner worked for the Authority and the Grand River Conservation Commission for 29 years from 1957 to 1986. Russell Jelly was with the organization for 24 years from 1969 to 1993.